



Accessing Disability Services at Public Postsecondary Institutions in Kentucky



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Learning Objectives

- To understand the difference in education laws and access to accommodations in high school and college.
- To learn about college disability resource centers, disability documentation and student self-advocacy.
- To learn about accommodations in college and how to access those services.

Education Laws in High School

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that gives students with disabilities the right to a free appropriate public education in high school does not apply to students with disabilities attending postsecondary institutions

www.idea.ed.gov



Education Laws in College

Students with disabilities at postsecondary institutions are covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 (Subpart E) of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act

www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html



Equal Opportunity is a RIGHT



Colleges cannot discriminate against a student with disabilities. They must work with students that have disabilities to allow them the same opportunities as other students.

What does this mean?



Under IDEA laws high school students have the **RIGHT** to a free appropriate public education.

However, a college education **IS NOT A RIGHT.**

- College students apply for admission
- College students are accepted into the institution
- College students pay tuition

Comparison of High School and College Disability Services

	High School	College
Identify	School district identifies a student with disability who is eligible for services	Student has to self – identify their disability and need for services
Document	School district develops a legal document called the Individualized Education Program (IEP) that schools must follow	Student provides college disability office documentation of their disability to request services
Access	Student needs are identified by the school district in the IEP and school provides services	Student must self-advocate and work with the college disability office to identify appropriate services

What happens to the high school Individualized Education Program (IEP)?



The Individualized Education Program (IEP), 504 plans or Transition plans are not used at postsecondary institutions.



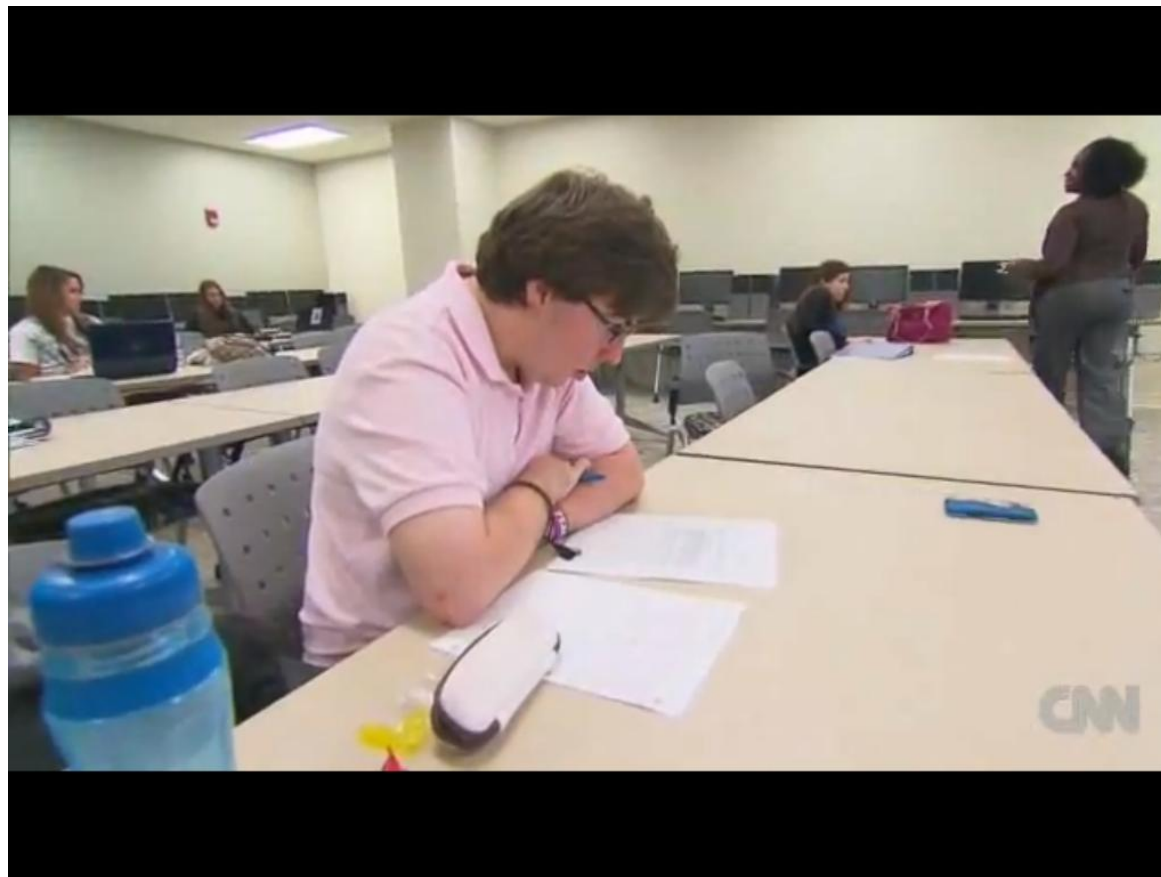
However.....



The IEP may be useful to help a student communicate with the disability resource center about services that worked well for them in high school when planning their accommodations for college.



Video: Facing College Life with Autism



<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/topvideos/2012/04/26/exp-exp-autism-college-students.cnn>

Four Key Points in the Video

- Self Identify



Four Key Points in the Video

- Self Identify
- Disability Resource Center



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Four Key Points in the Video

- Self Identify
- Disability Resource Center
- Student Self-Advocacy
- Accommodations



Self Identify



The first step in accessing disability services at a postsecondary institution is to self identify as a student in need of accommodations



Disability Resource Center



Disability resource centers administer and oversee student disability services on campus. These services include but are not limited to:


- Documentation procedures
- Arranging accommodations
- Informing students of their rights





What to expect?

Expect a two step process that consists of:

- Submission of written documentation to the disability resource center
 - Meeting with the disability service coordinator to plan accommodations
- 

Written documentation



Each college has their own set of standards for documentation and students need to contact the disability office to find out the documentation requirements.

What is documentation?

Documentation provides the college with a written and verified description of a student's disability. Every college is different but in general documentation describes:

- The nature of the disability
- Date of first diagnosis
- Information about relevant tests and results
- Information pertaining to the severity of the disability
- The current method of treatment
- Recommendations to help the student in the classroom

Meeting with the Disability Office

A meeting will be arranged between the disability resource center coordinator and the student.

During this meeting the student needs to effectively communicate their needs to the disability service coordinator



Student Self-Advocacy



In college it is the student's responsibility to know about their disability, what accommodations they need and explain why those accommodations are needed.

Advocacy



High School

The **parent or guardian** is the primary advocate.

During this time students need to:

- Learn about their disability
- Understand why they need the accommodations they are utilizing
- Learn how to self-advocate

College

The **student** is the primary advocate and must be able to communicate:

- Information about their disability
- How their disability impacts school activities
- What accommodations they need

Self Advocacy in High School

Teachers and parents should be open to dialogue with the student to help them become familiar with their disability and effective interventions used in high school.



Self Advocacy in High School



Students who desire to attend postsecondary institutions should have an IEP team meeting to discuss postsecondary goals. The student should be invited to attend this meeting

<http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/, , root,regs,300,D,300%252E321>
(section 7)

Programs in Kentucky

Supported Higher Education Project in Kentucky (SHEP)

- SHEP provides assistance to students with learning disabilities by helping them to develop an educational plan based on the student's goals and interests. In addition, they provide mentors, a variety of academic and social supports, and assistance with the college application, admission and financial aid process.
- SHEP is a project of the University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute and they also currently partner with Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University



<http://www.shepky.org/>

Programs in Kentucky

Western Kentucky University Kelly Autism Program Circle of Support Program for College Students

Students must apply and be accepted into Western Kentucky University. After students are admitted to the university they can apply to the Kelly Autism Circle of Support Program. The program provides three areas of support: private room, study tables and mentoring.

http://kap.wku.edu/College_Students-KAP_Circle_of_Support.html



Accommodations



Accommodations are tools used to help students complete college coursework and compensate for disabilities.

They do not change the integrity of the work students accomplish in class.



Also.....

College accommodations vary from student to student depending on the type of disability and the degree to which it creates a barrier to prevent a student from completing course assignments.





Before College Ask About

- Pre-college counseling services, assistance with admissions and financial aid applications



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- Housing and parking accommodations

Example of Academic Accommodations



- Pre-admission counseling
- Disability-related academic advising and planning (supplemental to academic advising)
- Supplemental note takers for eligible students
- Textbooks on tape or electronic format for eligible students
- Testing accommodations for eligible students (may include additional time, reduced distraction environment, and other appropriate accommodation)
- Advocacy which may include intervention with faculty and instructors as appropriate
- Provide faculty information about autism spectrum disorder
- Career advising and personal counseling is provided through the Counseling Center
- Tutoring (math , general , computer and study skills) through the REACH (Resources for Academic Achievement) program
- Writing support provided through the University Writing Center

University of Louisville Disability Resource Center Accommodations for Students with ASD

<http://louisville.edu/disability/>

Three Steps to Access Services

Identify

Student contacts the disability resource center and identifies as having a disability and in need of accommodations

Document

Student submits required documentation to disability resource center and meets with the coordinator to arrange accommodations

Access

Student maintains contact with the disability resource center to arrange accommodations each semester

Stay Informed



Students should sign up to receive information from the disability resource center through listserv emails or social networks such as Facebook, Twitter or Google+.

This will help a student stay informed about campus activities, opportunities for volunteer work or internships and any changes that have occurred.



Relax



Don't forget to meet new friends
and have fun!

Questions???



Contact

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More information available:

<http://louisville.edu/education/kyautismtraining/>